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R 242800Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, ASEC, PFOR, AR, US

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF PATRICIA ANN ERD

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING BUT NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING ABOUT THE ABDUCTION TEN DAYS AGO OF A 19-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN CITIZEN, PATRICIA ANN ERD, FROM HER FAMILY'S HOME IN BUENOS AIRES? HAVE WE PROTESTED TO THE GOA?

A. SINCE MISS ERD'S ABDUCTION (LATE SEPTEMBER 13) BY UNIDENTIFIED ARMED MEN WAS REPORTED TO OUR EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 14 BY HER FATHER (JOHN S. ERD, NEWSMONITE MANAGER), WE HAVE MOST ACTIVELY PURSUED HER CASE AT ALL POSSIBLE LEVELS. AT ONCE WE REQUESTED AN URGENT INVESTIGATION BY APPROPRIATE GOA AUTHORITIES. NO NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING HER ABDUCTION AND CONTINUED DISAPPEARANCE HAS APPEARED. WE HAVE MADE NO FORMAL PROTEST. HOWEVER, ON SEPTEMBER 21, AMBASSADOR HILL RAISED THIS MATTER WITH

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PRESIDENT VIDELA WHO ASSURED AMBASSADOR HILL THAT OUR EMBASSY WOULD BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS. OUR EMBASSY IS CONTINUING ITS ACTIVE PURSUIT OF THE CASE.

Q. MISS ERD'S FATHER HAS ACCUSED THE ARGENTINE POLICE OF HAVING ABDUCTED HIS DAUGHTER. DOES THE DEPARTMENT AGREE WITH HIM?

A. WE ARE AWARE THAT MR. ERD HAS STATED THAT VIEW. AT THIS TIME WE HAVE DRAWN NO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF HIS DAUGHTER'S ABDUCTORS. THAT IS ALL I HAVE. KISSINGER

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